Starvation deaths

752. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the starvation deaths reported in the country during last one year till 1st July, 2009, State-wise;

(b) the details of the starvation deaths reported in Uttar Pradesh during the last one year till 1st July 2009, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per information received from various State/UT Governments and record available in the Department, no incidence of starvation death has taken place during last one year in any State/UT, including Uttar Pradesh.

(c) For maintaining food security in the country and to ensure that people living below poverty line get adequate food grains, the Government has been implementing the following schemes:

1. Targeted Public Distribution System:

Government is allocating food grains at subsidized rates for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under this scheme, for BPL & AAY families food grains are allocated to the States/UTs @ 35 Kg per family per month. Depending upon availability of food grains in the Central Pool, they are also allocated for APL category of population. Presently, allocations of food grains under this category range from 10 to 35 Kg per family per month.

2. Under Annapurna scheme implemented by Ministry of Rural Development through State/UT Governments, indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who, though eligible under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) but not getting pension, are provided 10 Kg of food grains per person per month free of cost.

3. Under the Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) implemented by Department of Food and Public Distribution through the State Government of Orissa, in eight KBK Districts of Orissa, food grains (rice) at BPL rates are being allocated to State Government of Orissa for approximately 2 lakh beneficiaries in these districts.

4. To provide safeguard against starvation during natural calamity and lean season, under the Village Grain Bank Scheme being implemented by the Department of Food and Public Distribution through the State & UT Governments, food grains are loaned to people in need of food grains from the Village Grain Banks.